

Skin Screening Device for Early Detection of Pressure Injury (SkinSyte™)



Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Why this research is important:

Pressure injuries (skin wounds) are a major problem for persons with a lack of sensation. As examples, Veterans with SCI often incur a pressure injury to their seated area; Veterans with diabetes frequently develop wounds on the bottoms of their feet. These pressure injuries can be costly and even deadly if not detected early.

Summary:

The VA MADE Program has developed the SkinSyte™ system to enhance screening of the at-risk skin areas, compared to the current standard of care of using a long-handled mirror. The SkinSyte™ system is similar to a “selfie-stick” but separates the camera from the monitor for a better view of skin. The system allows the patient to take a picture, zoom in, and send to their healthcare provider for advice.

How the research will improve Veterans’ lives:

Veterans at risk of developing pressure injuries will be able to use the SkinSyte™ system to view areas at high risk for pressure injury development. Earlier detection can help avoid more significant injury, reduce lengthy hospitalization, surgeries or even loss of limb or life. The VA MADE Program is currently studying this new technology in Veterans with SCI and plans to expand our studies to Veterans with diabetic neuropathy.



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